Surplus staff

2024. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry proposes to down-size its departments; and

(b) if so, the details of the action plan indicating as to how the surplus staff would be absorbed in the alternative jobs?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Expenditure Reforms Commission has, *inter alia,* recommended winding up Films Division, Photo Division, Song and Drama Division, Directorate of Field Publicity, Directorate of Publications Division, handing over of Film and Television Institute of India, Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Directorate of Film Festivals to Film Industry and Children's Film Society, India, to Non-Governmental Organisations; disinvesting National Film Development Corporation Limited and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited and reducing/rationalising the role of other units.

These recommendations are being processed. A final decision has not yet been taken.

Uplinking of Dehradun DD Kendra

†2025. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to connect Dehradun Doordarshan Kendra with the other 'Kendras' including Delhi, through uplinking; and

(b) if so, by when this 'Kendra' would be developed as fully upgraded 'Kendra' and be provided the facility of uplinking?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Satellite Earth Station at Dehradun Doordarshan Kendra is already operational and programmes/feeds uplinked from Earth Station, Dehradun can be received at any of the Doordarshan Kendras in the country, including Delhi.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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(b) Scheme for setting up of a permanent studio centre at Dehradun has already been sanctioned, however suitable site for the same is yet to be made available by the State Government. It would take about 2 to 3 years to complete the project after the site is made available to Doordarshan.

Urdu Channel

2026. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of TV channels commenced by DD in various languages;

(b) the reasons for not having any channels in Urdu;

(c) the time given to Urdu programmes by various channels of Doordarshan; and

(d) the reasons for ignoring Urdu, which is a language written and spoken from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and has strong international appeal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Doordarshan operates a total of 25 TV Channels - Five All India Channels, 8 State Networks for the Hindi Belt, one International Channel and 11 Regional Language Satellite Channels in the following languages:

1. Malayalam
2. Tamil
3. Oriya
4. Bengali
5. Telugu
6. Kannada
7. Marathi
8. Gujarati
9. Kashmiri
10. Punjabi
11. Assamese & languages of North East

(b) Prasar Bharati has informed that due to resource constraints in terms of manpower, equipment and funds, Doordarshan has not been in a position to start a channel in Urdu. However, there is a proposal to start a channel in Urdu from the next financial year.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that Urdu programmes and News bulletins are being telecast daily on a number of Doordarshan channels. The details of such programmes are given in the Statement.